

Voting Equipment Subgroup
Vote Indiana Team
March 21, 2003

Members present: Dick Dodge, Pam Finlayson, Linda Grass, Dee Ann Hart, Jon Laramore, Martha Padish, Todd Rokita, Kristi Robertson and Doris Anne Sadler.
Facilitator: Sarah Taylor.

Others present: Gail Hart (IVS Accessible Voting), Mike and Edelle Rothrock (Count Us In).

There were no additions or corrections to last meeting's notes. Kristi Robertson distributed a spreadsheet showing what voting equipment was used in each county for the November 2000 election along with what system they are currently using. Kristi also provided the state application for reimbursement of voting equipment and the Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA) figures on file. Pam Finlayson handed out a survey Laura Herzog did with voter registration vendor information for each county. Pam also shared her spreadsheet on voting systems used in each county. Pam says she is very concerned that we find out from optical scan counties if they have precinct readers and for counties with DREs that we find out their need for upgrading to meet HAVA requirements for accessibility.

Bullet point 5 for the Voting Equipment subgroup in the Task Lists for Subgroups document addresses the role of the current QPA and applications by counties for reimbursement. Kristi led the discussion by summarizing that the deadlines in HAVA for reimbursement are different than current Indiana law. According to Kristi, most counties applied for reimbursements from state funds. Pam noted that counties have been moving towards upgrades for years. She wonders what will be the starting point for reimbursement. Pam believes all counties will need money to meet some part of HAVA's requirements. Kristi said the development of the first QPA was time consuming. The Indiana Election Division is under the impression that they will need to go through the QPA process again to include additional vendors. It is also clear that it can be difficult to determine, when making comparisons between Vendor A and Vendor B on the QPA, if they are using the same information. Jon Laramore suggests the QPA might be the benchmark for further funding distribution discussions. Kristi said for counties to be reimbursed from state funds that the county would have to purchase from the QPA. General group sentiment was that a county knows their needs best and that they should not have to buy off the QPA for reimbursement purposes. **There was consensus among the group that the deadline for counties to file an application for reimbursement should be removed.**

Under bullet point 6, discussion was held regarding priorities of phasing-out punch card and lever machines and reimbursement for past or pending upgrades of other equipment. Sarah Taylor suggested they review Section 102 in HAVA as a starting point. It seemed clear to the group that Congress sent a mandate that punch card and lever machines replacement be a priority. Doris Anne Sadler said no state match was perceived in

Section 102. She felt Title 3 or Section 101 monies should be used for accessibility purposes. She feels as if counties that qualify for Section 102 monies are counting on the full amount available per precinct. Jon wonders if the group has to place some criteria on reimbursement so individual counties don't buy a system that doesn't comply with HAVA. County representatives on the committee seemed uncomfortable with placing additional restrictions on the counties who know their jobs best. Discussion was then held on a possible contradiction or inconsistency in the HAVA language concerning Section 102 monies and their relationship or tie in to Section 301 monies. Dee Ann Hart stressed that the committee must consider need when making its' decision. Kristi worries about the punch card and lever machine precincts that never get off their old system and how that jeopardizes funding for all. John inquired about HAVA and any mention of the use of paper ballots. Paper ballots are permitted in Indiana however each polling location must have a system that is accessible by the HAVA deadline for the 2004 elections unless a waiver is granted. Discussion was then held on Indiana's statute including the de-certification of punch cards if state money is appropriated in the Voting Systems Improvement Fund. Current statute is silent on lever machines. Secretary Rokita said Indiana statute should reflect HAVA's requirements for compliance.

For the next meeting Sarah, Pam, Kristi and Laura will work to complete necessary data elements in the spreadsheet on voting equipment. They will gather additional fields of information to perform a calculation on the minimum amount of money necessary to meet Section 102 compliance. They will review the QPA and do their best at finding the lowest cost per piece of equipment times the 3110 qualifying precincts. They will also find the number of polling places impacted to assist in knowing the minimum number of DRE's necessary. This exercise will not take into account "back-up" equipment necessary for breakdowns. An attempt will be made to find voter turn out numbers. Committee members were reminded that counties using DREs need more than one unit per precinct for voter use as a rule not by Indiana statute or HAVA requirement.

Public Comment: Mike Rothrock (Count Us In) suggested the group prioritize by population. He speculated that the more populous counties would have more available funds. As a proponent of polling place accessibility, he stressed that he does not want to see Section 101 monies all used up on voting equipment. Mike also suggested that counties should be given more flexibility to consider consolidating polling locations into shared areas. This concept would allow for all precincts to be in an accessible location.

Sean White (freshman at Purdue University) was shadowing Secretary Rokita this week. Sean commented that HAVA is a complicated issue for the Vote Indiana Team to get their hands around with its massive changes. During the Training and Education subgroup, he was excited to learn about the opportunities for college and high school pollworker participation in the electoral process. He will be interning this summer for Senator Lugar where he hopes to learn more about HAVA. Todd indicated that he had a good meeting with Senator Lugar reference full HAVA funding. We asked Sean to remind Senator Lugar to support full appropriation of HAVA monies.

